filthy, where ducks or hens are kept, and secured by a low palisade. The house of a peasant, in the most populous part of Java, where materials are somewhat scarce, is worth about sixty days' labour.

Next to the house of the peasant, the commonest description of dwellings among the Javanese is what is called the pandapa. It has a thatched roof, occasionally covered with shingles, four sided, and supported by four wooden pillars. Around this, the principal part of the structure, is a roof, a few feet in breadth, composed of light materials, and erected on moveable props. Where privacy is necessary the whole is surrounded by a close palisade, and divided into apartments, and in this airy, unsubstantial habitation, the owner resides, until it literally falls to pieces about his ears.

The house is always erected on a raised terrace, sometimes of common earth, sometimes, as a foundation, paved with rough flagstones, or cased with indurated mortar.

In Sumatra a village is generally composed of rows of houses, disposed in the form of a quadrangle, with lanes or streets between. In the centre is a square, and in the middle of this stands the *balis*, or town hall, a room of from 50 to 100 feet long, by 30 wide; open at the sides, but sheltered by the low, overhanging roof, and a few curtains of mats or chintz. Neither stone, brick, nor clay are ever made use of, and the principal reason for this fragile species of domestic architecture on this island may be found in those frequent earthquakes which, from a period immemorial, have ravaged the island from time to time. The frames of the houses are of timber, with the floor resting on plain or carved pillars, from 6 to 8 feet in height, which have a sort of capital, but no base, and are larger at the upper than at the lower end. According to Marsden, the people have no idea of architecture; lavishing strength on parts which do not require it, and neglecting those whose solidity is indispensable. To make the flooring they arrange whole bamboos, close to each other, and fasten them at the ends to the timber. Across these are laid laths of split bamboo, about an inch wide, and of the length of the room, which are fastened down with a species of cord made from the fibres of the ratan, and the whole is spread over with mats. This kind of flooring is so elastic that strangers are alarmed when treading on it for the first time, but is, nevertheless, sufficiently strong for a family that does not indulge in the civilized luxuries of Sir Roger de Coverley or the Polka.

The sides of the house are usually constructed of bamboo split, and flattened by pressure. This is either nailed to the wood or woven in convenient breadths, which are worked round the upright posts, by ropes of the inner bark of the tree coolicoy. For the roof, the atap, or leaf of the nitrah palm, is employed. These, previous to use, are formed into sheets about five feet in length, which are doubled over a lath, then so disposed that one flaps over the other to carry off rain, and all are fastened to the bamboos that serve as rafters. Elevated sites are usually chosen for the village, the slopes of hills or the summits of rocks, the neighbourhood of a river, stream, or fountain being indispensable to the existence of the community. Small fixed frames of woven bamboo are used as bedsteads, and fixed along the walls.

The communities inhabited by mountain tribes, when located on great rivers, or in swampy districts, present a singular appearance: Palembang in Sumatra, and Brunè in Borneo, are remarkable instances. Some of the houses are erected on lofty piles within high water mark, and others are built as moveable rafts, moored in the water, and moved to and fro at pleasure. In such places the means of communication between house and house, street and street, are of course in canoes. Many other different fashions of domestic architecture prevail in the Indian Archipelago; but we must content ourselves with this rapid glance, as space will not permit a more detailed description. From what we have said, however, a contrast will be at once suggested between the substantial edifices of our cities and the snug cottages of our rural districts, and the cumbrous and rude or frail and flimsy structures of Borneo and its companion Isles.

The furniture of these dwellings is equally simple and incomplete. In Crawfurd's ponderous history we find an entertaining contrast between the contents of an English and those of an Indian home. The necessary furniture of a European dwelling, he says, has its origin in customs totally different from those of the Indian islanders, and in the necessities created by a climate the very reverse of that in which they live. We sit on elevated seats, and, when we eat, must be served on tables of corresponding elevation. They sit and eat on the ground, and require neither chairs nor tables. To protect us from the cold, we require soft and warm beds, and thick coverings. All these would be unsupportable nuisances in the climate of the Indian islanders. Their food is served up on salvers, or trays of wood or brass. Their beds are no more than the slight bamboo floor of the cottage, or at best, benches of the same flimsy material, on which a mat is laid, with a single small pillow. The peasant retires to rest without undressing (when he wears any clothes at all), and with the sarong or principal garment, wraps himself up, and thus receives some protection from the bites of venomous insects.

In the dwellings of the chiefs, however, we generally find a kind of state bed, a couch of honour, which is more an object of display than an article of use, as it is employed only on solemn occasions. Of other furniture we find little. Spoons, knives, and forks are unknown among all the native tribes, except a few of those to whom contact with Europeans has taught some innovations on their ancient customs. A few dishes of porcelain ware, imported from China, are occasionally used as luxuries; but the more common table utensils are manufactured of brass. In cooking, shallow iron pans, imported from China, or coarse earthen pots, are used. Among the more barbarous tribes, the green cane hollowed is used, even in boiling rice.

The manufacture of the artizan's tools is still in its rudest state. Iron is scarce, and its employment in the industrial arts is little known. All nations seem to have learned its use in war, by a kind of intuitive tendency, but in the making of files, nails, chisels, saws, hammers, and axes, its employment is very limited. Still, with all these disadvantages, the houses of many of the Indian tribes are neat, comfortable, and compact.

THE INSTITUTE MEDALS AND THE DISQUALIFICATION CLAUSE.

AT a special general meeting of the members on the 25th ultimo, which was very numerously attended, the report of the council declining to award the Soane medallion to any of the designs submitted was confirmed, after a long discussion. The rigour of the report was generally lamented, and a motion was made to return the report to the council, with a recommendation that they should award the medal to the competitors best entitled to it who had complied with the instructions, but this was lost.

The council brought up a second report on the subject of the unwise, illiberal, and injurious clause which, on the part of members, makes having engaged in the measurement, valuation, or estimation of any works undertaken or proposed to be undertaken by a building artificer, except works under their own direction, a ground of expulsion from the Institute.

In the first instance, the council had declined to recommend any alteration, and the general meeting returned their report for reconsideration. The council, on the present occasion, recommended its repeal so far as it extended to *associates*,—and this, after some discussion, was carried by a large majority. Some rare stuff was talked by one or two opponents of the change, who must surely know better.

We congratulate the Institute sincerely on this step in the right direction. It should be unnecessary to remark that the object of the change is, not that all who measure for artificers should be brought into the Institute, but that an *architect* should not be prevented from acting for builders if requested to do so.

At the same meeting, the sum of 50*l.* was voted from the general funds in support of the 1851 Exposition, contingent on the opinion of the honorary solicitor as to the legality of so appropriating the funds of the Institute. Even if found *legal*, and anxious as we are to aid this important undertaking, we must question the propriety of the vote, knowing as we do the claims there are on the comparatively limited funds of the Institute.

THE EXPENDITURE OF THE NEW SEWERS COMMISSION.

A FEW days ago we took the opportunity afforded to all ratepayers, by a clause in the Sewers Act, to look over the statement of receipts and disbursements by the commission, impelled thereto as much by a call from the collector on the preceding day, for the amount of a 6d. rate, as by our duty to the public, and received courteous attention from Mr. Hatton, the chief in the Accounts' Office. We must confess we were somewhat startled by what we saw, and we think our readers will be so too.

The general statement of accounts from the 5th January, 1849, to 31st December, 1850, showed that—

The outstanding assets, January 5th, were	£10,607
The liabilities	95,201
The cash balance in hand	22,956
The receipts during the year	71,623
The payments	85,345
The outstanding assets December	64,489
And the liabilities, which include a charge by Ordnance Office, of 11,700*l.*	100,755

The amount of payments, 85,345*l.* was made up as follows, omitting the shillings:—

Works	£50,309
Surveys	8,339
Loans	4,014
Management	22,400
And contingencies	280

Twenty-two thousand pounds for management, exclusive of surveys! One would think there must be some error here.

It appeared that these payments included debts incurred previously, namely, from the expiry of the old commissions, and we, therefore, looked a little further, and gathered as the actual expenditure of the year, from January to December, as follows:—

Expense of works	£12,439
Surveys	2,000
Management	20,004

The proportion per cent. which the charge for management bears to the whole charge, taken on the first nine months of the year, is stated at 25·68.

If little has been done, at all events, much seems to have been paid for.

THE SECOND BASSO-RELIEVO FOR THE NELSON TESTIMONIAL.

THE second *basso-relievo* (if so it can be called, seeing that some of the parts project at least 15 inches from the face of the work), executed by Mr. W. F. Woodington, is completed in bronze ready for fixing, and promises to be very effective in its position. The battle illustrated is that of the Nile, and the artist has been fortunate in the selection of an incident. Nelson has been struck, and the surgeon is leaving a sailor to whom he had been attending, to go to the commander; but Nelson waves him off with the intimation that he shall "wait his turn." The figures are 8 feet high, much larger, it would seem, than those in Mr. Carew's panel. The other two works, the St. Vincent and Copenhagen, have likewise these larger proportions. This want of coincidence, when all the panels are up, will, we fear, prove hurtful to the general effect, and is much to be regretted. The *reliefo* was cast (in five pieces) by Messrs. Moore and Freasange, who have also the two others in hand. The thickness of the metal is about three-eighths of an inch. Mr. Woodington executed one of the earliest bronzes issued by the Art-Union of London.

"MARYLEBONE LITERARY INSTITUTION GAZETTE."—The Marylebone Literary Institution has published, under the above title, two parts of a periodical which, besides giving the members information of what is going on within the walls, contains some pleasant reading.

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